(b) if so, the reasons for delay in arriving at a decision in the matter and by when the same is likely to be taken and communicated to the state Government?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The information on the matter is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vacancies in Regulatory and Appellate Tribunals

3615. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in regulatory and appellate tribunals, that are required to be filled still; and

(b) the details thereof, including the duration for which each vacancy is existing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Judicial activism

3616. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry, while containing the rising Dudicial activism, is contemplating measures that would promote and strengthen the system of checks and balances which is envisaged by the Constitution, for a healthy growth of our democracy;

(b) if so, the details of measures proposed and by when these would be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Judiciary is independent in India and enjoys wide powers of judicial review. However, the three organs of state have, by and large, functioned within their respective domains maintaining the doctrine of checks and balances.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal before the Government.

Disposal of cheque bounce cases

†3617. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that additional burden is increasing on courts due to cases filed in respect of cheque bounce matters;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering or proposes to make any alternative arrangement in this regard;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether there is any proposals to bring matters of cheque bounce under the jurisdiction of consumer courts; and

(d) if not, whether Government proposes to consider any such proposal to reduce the burden of regular courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Most of the High Courts have informed that it is a fact that there is a large number of cases pending in various courts related to bouncing of cheques.

(b) to (d) Time bound disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of judiciary. However, in order to reduce pendency of cases Government has initiated a number of measures. The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 was amended in December, 2002, incorporating certain provisions relating to 'Dishonour of Cheques' which *inter-alia*, provided insertion of a new Section 143 providing for summary trial of cases under the Act and also laying down that every endeavour shall be made by the court to conclude the trial within six months of filing the complaint.

Pending cases and vacant posts in courts

3618. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in different courts in the country including High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) whether cases are pending because many posts of Judges and lying vacant;

(c) if so, the details of vacant posts in different courts State-wise; and

(d) whether the setting up of Fast Track Courts has helped in reducing the number of pending cases and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Details indicating the number of cases pending in the Supreme Court, High Courts and the Subordinate Courts are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Vacancies in the posts of judges is also one of the reasons for the cases pending in the courts. Details indicating the number of Vacant posts of judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and the Subordinate Courts and given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) Setting up of Fast Track Courts has helped in reducing the number of pending cases. As per the information received from the States, 19,43,342 cases have been disposed of by the Fast Track Courts out of 26,73,964 cases transferred to them.

Statement-I

A. The number of pending cases in different courts

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	609895	209789	819684